

YES WE CAN! MAYOR PEREZ CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA

---NEWS STATEMENT---

(November 5, 2008)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez has issued the following statement:

"Change has come to America and hope has been restored for our future. I want to congratulate President-Elect Obama on his historic and decisive victory --- one I am confident will lead this great nation on a road to economic recovery and will restore the world's faith in our vision for freedom and human rights for all.

From one community organizer to another, let me add that the road we travel together as a nation will not be easy and will be full of challenges. However, President-Elect Obama has the talent and the temperament to lead us, build bridges, and give people the tools they need to grow and prosper.

As a community organizer, you learn to build trust, take risks, and make a commitment to a positive end result that will matter to people, because they are stakeholders in the solution. You recognize people's diverse backgrounds and ideological differences and find the common ground to build a strong foundation.

These can be daunting tasks but not impossible ones. And when you are the "first" at something, the expectations of success can be raised that much higher. However, with Barack Obama, we have a leader, a Commander-in-Chief, and a family man who loves his country and provides hope for its future. These are very important qualities to a city like Hartford, which calls itself the 'City of Hope and Opportunity'--- a city I am proud to say where residents turned out in incredible numbers to ensure that their voices were heard.

So, let me take this opportunity to say it's been a long time coming, but change has come. Yes We Can! Yes We Will! And America, Yes We Have!"